Research Notes: for James Sheppard (1836 - 1917)

Research Overview:

James Sheppard was born in 1836 in Newport, Tipperary, Ireland, the son of Joseph Sheppard and Hannah Hartigan, and spent his adult life in Clinton, Iowa. His record is dense with dates—baptism, census appearances, marriages, births, and deaths—yet thin in explanation. He appears first as a child within a migrating Irish family and later as a fixed figure within a single Midwestern town. After immigration, he remained in Clinton. His adult life was structured around wage work in the lumber industry and the maintenance of a household through marriages and child-rearing.

James Sheppard married twice and had thirteen children. Four died before reaching adulthood. Of the nine who survived into adulthood, only three had children of their own. The household appears large and durable, but its line thins quickly. Stability of residence and employment did not reliably produce continuity in the next generation.

Speculative Narrative:

Intentionally left blank

Time Line:

11 Feb 1836 - Birth at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[1]

12 Feb 1836 - Baptism at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[2]

May 1837 - Birth of brother John Sheppard (1837 - 1890) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[3]

13 Oct 1939 - Birth of brother David Sheppard (1839-) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[4]

Aug 1842 - Birth of sister Mary Sheppard (1842 -) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[5]

1842 - Arrival

Aug 1842 - Birth of sister Bridget Sheppard (1844 - 1872) at Newport, Tipperary, Ireland.[6]

1843 - Living in Sterling, Iowa

1859 - Arrival.[7]

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[1] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6NQ5-4G78: 28 August 2023), James Shepperd, 1836.

[2] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6NQ5-4G78: 28 August 2023), James Shepperd, 1836.

[3] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKK-752P: 30 May 2020), John Sheppard, 1890; Burial, , ; citing record ID, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[4] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6NQW-RJ13: 28 August 2023), David Sheppard, 1839.

[5] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6681-K3F4: 28 August 2023), Mary Shepard, 1842.

[6] "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6681-K3F4: 28 August 2023), Bridget Shepard, 1844.

[7] "United States Census, 1910", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ML1J-S8: Tue Jul 23 14:10:28 UTC 2024), Entry for James Shepard and Ellen F Shepard, 1910

1860 US Census at[8]

Joseph Sheppard, 57

Hannah Sheppard, 50

James Sheppard, 23

Bridget Sheppard, 13

24 Jan 1861- Marriage to Mary Ann Savage (1843 - 1876) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[9]

The following years record a rapid succession of births within the first marriage, punctuated by early child loss.

25 Nov 1861 - Birth of son Joseph W Sheppard (1861 - 1886) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[10]

1 Jul 1863 - Military US Civil War Draft Registration Records at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[11]

Jun 1864 - Birth of daughter Mary Ann Sheppard (1864 - 1914) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[12]

13 Sep 1865- Birth of daughter Ella G Sheppard (1865 - 1892) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[13]

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[8] "United States Census, 1860", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M825-9X6: Mon Jul 08 06:56:27 UTC 2024), Entry for Joseph Sheppard and Hannah Sheppard, 1860.

[9] "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KCWP-CD6: Wed Mar 20 04:46:20 UTC 2024), Entry for James Sheppard and Mary Ann Savage, 1861.

[10] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK3-8LDM: 29 May 2020), Joseph W. Sheppard, 1886; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[11] Military record

[12] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGZ-8PHJ: 23 July 2020), Mary Ann Sheppard McGinty, ; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[13] "Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJP-P6Z2: Thu Mar 07 23:45:36 UTC 2024), Entry for Ellen Maloney, 03 Aug 1892.

23 Dec 1867 - Birth of son James Sheppard (1867 - 1934) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[14]

after 1869- Birth of son Frank Sheppard (1869 - 1872) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[15]

1870 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[16]

James Sheppard, 34
Mary A Sheppard, 27
Joseph W Sheppard, 9
Mary Sheppard, 7
Ellen Sheppard, 4
James T Sheppard, 2

1870 - Birth and death of daughter Hannah T Sheppard (1870 - 1870) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[17]

6 Jun 1872 - Death of sister Bridget Sheppard (1844 - 1872) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[18]

1872 - Death of son Frank Sheppard (1869 - 1872) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[19]

10 Mar 1873 - Birth of son John Francis Sheppard (1873 - 1973) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[20]

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[14] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:68C5-TFW1: Sun Mar 10 21:22:19 UTC 2024), Entry for James Thomas Sheppard and James Sheppard, 16 Dec 1934.

[15] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKK-7522: 30 May 2020), Frank Sheppard, ; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[16] "United States Census, 1870", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDJR-6V2: Fri Jul 12 09:19:40 UTC 2024), Entry for James Sheppard and Mary A Sheppard, 1870.

[17] Birth and death of daughter Hannah T Sheppard

[18] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVV3-XF23 : 9 June 2021), Bridget Sheppard Kennedy, ; Burial, Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States of America, Saint Mary's Cemetery; citing record ID 6262779, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[19] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKK-7522: 30 May 2020), Frank Sheppard, ; Burial, ,; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[20] "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918", database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:7PR4-5BN2 : 3 July 2024), John Francis Sheppard, 1917-1918.

9 Apr 1876 - Death of wife Mary Ann Savage (1864 - 1876) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[21]

Mary Ann Savage died in 1876, leaving James Sheppard a widower with young children.

13 Sep 1877 - Marriage to Ellen Frances Spaulding (1844 - 1920) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[22]

6 Jul 1878 - Birth of daughter Elizabeth Sheppard (1878 - 1906) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[23]

5 Apr 1880 - Birth of daughter Helen Gertrude Sheppard (1880 - 1958) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[24]

By 1880, the household included children from both marriages as well as stepchildren from wife Ellen Frances Spaulding's first marriage.

1880 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[25]

Jas. Sheppard - head of household, white, male, born ?, age 44, married x years, born Ireland, parents born Ireland, sawmill, owns home

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[21] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK3-8LD9 : 16 December 2020), Mary Ann Savage Sheppard, ; Burial, Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States of America, Saint Mary's Cemetery; citing record ID 32391683, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[22] "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XJNV-YQT: Sat Jul 06 03:16:49 UTC 2024), Entry for James Shepperd and Ellen Spaulding, 13 Sep 1877.

[23] **Where The Record Is Found (Citation)**
"Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJP-P299: Sat Mar 09 00:27:19 UTC 2024), Entry for Elizabeth Shepard, 11 Mar 1906.

[24] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVR-LMZC : 11 January 2022), Gertrude Helen Sheppard Laughlin, ; Burial, Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States of America, Saint Mary's Cemetery; citing record ID 24503372, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[25] "United States Census, 1880", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MD2Q-3H5 : Thu Mar 07 12:32:12 UTC 2024), Entry for Jas. Sheppard and Ellen Sheppard, 1880.

Ellen Sheppard - wife, white, female, born ?, age 36, mother of 6 children, 4 living, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
Joseph Sheppard - son, white, male, born ?, age 18, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Mary Sheppard - daughter, white, female, born ?, age 15, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Ellen Sheppard - daughter, white, female, born ?, age 14, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
John Sheppard - son, white, male, born ?, age 13, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
James Sheppard - son, white, male, born ?, age 12, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Eliza Sheppard - daughter, white, female, born ?, age 2, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Gertrude Sheppard - daughter, white, female, born ?, age 2/12, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
John Clark - step son, white, male, born ?, age 13, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Peter Clark - step son, white, male, born ?, age 7, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

1 Sep 1882 - Death of father Joseph Sheppard (1802 - 1882) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[26]

24 Nov 1882 - Birth of son Charles Ames Sheppard (1882 - 1941) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[27]

21 Feb 1885 - Birth of son Thomas Edward Sheppard (1885 - 1955) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[28]

25 Oct 1885 - Birth of daughter Hannah T. Sheppard (1885 - 1886) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[29]

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[26] "Iowa, Death Records, 1888-1904", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6R49-JBJV: 9 January 2024), Joseph Shepherd, 1882.

[27] "United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WQBH-Y8MM: Sun Mar 10 04:44:46 UTC 2024), Entry for Charles Ames Sheppard, 22 April 1919.

[28] "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XVZ6-74K: Sat Aug 31 06:00:45 UTC 2024), Entry for Shepherd and James Shepherd, 21 Feb 1885.

[29] Find a Grave, Hannah Sheppard

1885 - Iowa State Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[30]

James Shepord, 47
Ellen Shepord, 40
Joseph Shepord, 23
Mary Shepord, 21
John Shepord, 12
James Shepord, 17
Lizzie Shepord, 7
Gertie Shepord, 5
Charles Shepord, 3
Thomas Shepord, 0
Hannah Shepord, 78

17 May 1886 - Death of daughter Hannah T. Sheppard (1885 - 1886) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[31]

2 Jun 1886 - Death of son Joseph W. Sheppard (1861 - 1886) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[32]

29 Oct 1886 - Birth of daughter Theresa Sheppard (1886 - 1899) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[33]

3 Aug 1889 - Death of daughter Ella G. Sheppard (1865 - 1892) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[34]

17 May 1889 - Death of daughter Theresa Sheppard (1886 - 1899) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[35]

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[30] "Iowa State Census, 1855", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VTS4-J81: Sat Jul 20 03:17:56 UTC 2024), Entry for James Shephard and Ellen Shephard, 1895.

[31] Find a Grave, Hannah Sheppard

[32] "Iowa, Death Records, 1888-1904", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6R49-414X: 9 January 2024), Joseph Sheppard, 1886.

[33] "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XVZ6-DG9: Sat Aug 31 04:43:08 UTC 2024), Entry for Shepherd and James Shepherd, 25 Oct 1886.

[34] "Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJP-P6Z2: Thu Mar 07 23:45:36 UTC 2024), Entry for Ellen Maloney, 03 Aug 1892.

[35] "Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJP-PJLR : Fri Mar 08 18:58:35 UTC 2024), Entry for Teresa Sheppard, 17 May 1899.

1900 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[36]

James Sheppard - head of household, white, male, age 64, born ?, married x years, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
Ellen Sheppard - wife, white, female, age 54, born ?, married x years, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
John L Clark - stepson, white, male, age 32, born ?, married x years, born Iowa, parents born Ireland, 32
Lizzie Sheppard - daughter, white, female, age 21, born ?, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Gertrude Sheppard - daughter, white, female, age 20, born ?, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Charles Sheppard - son, white, male, age 17, born ?, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
Thomas Sheppard - son, white, male, age 15, born ?, born Iowa, parents born Ireland

1905 - Iowa State Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[37]

James Shepard,
Ellen Shepard,

17 May 1889 - Death of daughter Elizabeth Sheppard (1878 - 1906) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[38]

1910 - US Census at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[39]

James Shepard - head of household, male, white, age 74, married, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
Ellen F Shepard - wife, female, white, age 64, married, can read, can write, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

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[36] "United States Census, 1900", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9KW-3WX: Tue Jul 23 15:08:32 UTC 2024), Entry for James Sheppard and Ellen Sheppard, 1900.

[37]

[38] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPLV-VTJC : Sun Mar 10 11:20:12 UTC 2024), Entry for Elizabeth Sheppard and James Sheppard, 11 March 1906.

[39] "United States Census, 1910", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ML1J-S8J: Tue Jul 23 14:10:28 UTC 2024), Entry for James Shepard and Ellen F Shepard, 1910.

John Clark - stepson, male, white, age 43, widower, born Iowa, parents born Ireland
James Sheppard Jr - son, male, white, age 42, single, born Iowa, parents born Ireland, 42

1914 - Death of daughter Mary Ann Sheppard (1864 - 1919) at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[40]

26 Jul 1917 - Death at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[41]

Jul 1917 - Obituary

James Sheppard, one of the oldest pioneer residents of Clinton, passed away this morning at 6:00 after a lingering illness brought on by an attack of la grippe last October. Funeral services will be held Saturday morning with Solemn Requiem Mass at 9 o'clock at St. Mary's Church. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mr. Sheppard was born February 11, 1836, in Ireland and came to this country in 1842, residing first in Sterling. He came to Clinton with his parents in 1854 and has resided here since. During the years that the lumber business was in its active, he was a foreman of the WJ Young Co, remaining in that occupation until the mills closed, after which he retired to private life. He was a gentleman of true Christian spirit, kindly in character and revered by all who knew him.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Ellen F. Sheppard, and sons and near relatives, James, John, Thomas, and Charles Sheppard, and JL and PV Charke. He also leaves a daughter, Mrs. JA Laughlin of Elkhart, Indiana. Thomas Sheppard is traveling in the west, and Charles resides in Los Animas, Colorado.

The Clinton Newspaper
July 26, 1917

July - Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery at Clinton, Clinton, Iowa.[42]

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[40] "Iowa, Death Records, 1904-1951", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPLV-DMMG: Fri Mar 08 06:42:13 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary McGinly and James Sheppard, 16 January 1913.

[41] Death Record

[42] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVV-Q4WG : 10 June 2021), James T Sheppard, ; Burial, Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States of America, Saint Mary's Cemetery; citing record ID 23419829, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

16 Aug 1917 - Probate at Clinton, Iowa.[43]

[43] Probate